

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (AMENDED) A method for data-flow protection of an optical interface in a protected device~~data communication equipment~~, comprising the steps of:

(1) receiving an optical signal~~optical signal~~ ~~carried data flow~~ from a source-neighboring device by the protected device;

(2) duplicating the optical signal~~optical signal~~ into at least two duplicated optical signal~~optical signals~~: a first duplicated optical signal~~optical signal~~ and a second duplicated optical signal~~optical signal~~, and

sending the first duplicated optical signal~~optical signal~~ to a protected device for processing, and;

sending directly the second duplicated optical signal to be selected;

(3) according to working status signal output of the protected device, selecting one from the second duplicated optical-signal and output optical-signal of the protected device, and sending the selected one to a destination-neighboring device.

2. (AMENDED) The method according to Claim 1, wherein step (3) comprises, if working status signal output of the protected device ~~in step (3)~~ is normal, then selecting optical signal~~optical signal~~ output of the protected device and sending to the destination-neighboring device; if the protected device working status in step (3) is

~~abnormal isn't normal~~, then selecting the second duplicated optical-signal and sending to the destination-neighboring device.

3. (AMENDED) The method according to Claim 1, wherein between step (2) and step (3) further ~~comprises~~comprising:

re-duplicating the output optical-signal of the protected device into at least two re-duplicated optical-signals;

detecting whether an optical power of one of the two re-duplicated ~~optical signal~~~~optical-signals~~ is lower than a preset threshold value;

if yes, selecting directly the second duplicated ~~optical signal~~~~optical-signal~~ to send to the destination-neighboring device, and ending; and

otherwise, selecting another re-duplicated ~~optical signal to the destination-neighboring device~~~~optical-signal as the output of the protected device~~, and executing step (3).

4. (AMENDED) A data-flow protection device of an optical interface in a ~~protected device~~~~data communication equipment~~, ~~comprising~~comprises

a first optical-signal duplicating unit and an optical-signal selecting unit;

wherein ~~an~~ ~~the~~ input of the first optical-signal duplicating unit is connected to a source-neighboring device for receiving an optical-signal, one ~~output~~ of the first optical-signal duplicating unit ~~output~~ is directly connected to one input of the optical-signal selecting unit ~~input~~, another output of the first optical-signal duplicating unit connects to input of a protected device;

wherein another input of the optical-signal selecting unit is connected to optical-signal ~~data-flow~~ output of the protected device, the control end of the optical-signal selecting unit is connected with working status signal output of the protected device, the output of the optical-signal selecting unit connects to a destination-neighboring device.

5. (AMENDED) The data-flow protection device according to Claim 4, further comprises a second optical-signal duplicating unit, an optical power detecting module and a logic module;

wherein ~~the optical-signal data-flow~~ output of the protected device is connected to an input of the second optical-signal duplicating unit ~~input~~, one output of the second optical-signal duplicating unit ~~output~~ connects to the optical-signal selecting unit, another output of the second optical-signal duplicating unit connects to the input of the optical power detecting module;

wherein inputs of the logic module are connected to working status signal output of the protected device and output of the optical power detecting module, respectively, and the output of the logic module connects to the control end of the optical-signal selecting unit.

6. (AMENDED) The data-flow protection device according to Claim 5, wherein the optical power detecting unit comprises an optical-electrical conversion diode, an operational amplifier and an analog comparator;

wherein the optical-electrical conversion ~~component diode~~ receives optical-signal outputted by the second optical-signal duplicating unit, converts the optical-signal to an electrical signal and output the electrical signal to the operational amplifier;

the analog comparator receives the amplified electrical signal from the operational amplifier, compares with a preset threshold value, outputs a control signal to one input of the logic module control ~~input~~.

7. (ORIGINAL) The data-flow protection device according to Claim 4, wherein the optical-signal duplication unit is an optical splitter, and the optical-signal selecting unit is an optical switch.